

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus that is arranged to output in a frontward direction bags affixed to a strip, said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus comprising:

a bag manufacturing unit that manufactures bags filled with articles and includes  
~~a transverse sealing mechanism that seals vertical ends of bags, said transverse sealing mechanism having a pair of sealing members that are respectively positioned on a front side and a rear side of a tubular film, said pair of sealing members revolving so as to define annular trajectories that are front-rear symmetrical, said pair of sealing members grasping ends of bags and applying heat and pressure while moving downward to seal the ends, said pair of sealing members releasing the end of a bag at a release position, said releasing position being fixed within said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus without regard to a distance by which said pair of sealing members moves downward while grasping the bag; and~~

a mounting unit that mounts bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit to a strip, said mounting unit having

a transfer mechanism that transfers the bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit diagonally downward and rearward ~~such that the bags do not interfere with said transverse sealing mechanism while being transferred,~~ and

a fixing mechanism that affixes the bags to the strip after said transfer mechanism transfers the bags.

2. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said bag manufacturing unit discharges manufactured bags downward; and  
said transfer mechanism transfers bags to a position in which a bag that will be mounted to the strip will not interfere with a next bag that will be discharged from said bag manufacturing unit.

3. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising  
a strip roll that reels out the strip, and  
a strip transport unit that transports strips reeled out from the strip roll to said fixing mechanism.

4. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 3, further comprising  
a tension control mechanism for maintaining the tension of a strip transported by said strip transport unit in a predetermined range.

5. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
said strip transport unit transports a plurality of strips to said fixing mechanism; and  
said fixing mechanism affixes bags to at least one of the plurality of strips.

6. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 3, further comprising  
a remaining amount detecting unit that detects the amount of strips remaining in said strip roll.

7. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
there is an open space below said bag manufacturing unit on a front side relative to a point where said bag manufacturing unit releases the bags downward;  
said transfer mechanism transfers the bags toward a rear side; and

said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus further comprises a strip-attached-bag discharge unit that discharges bags that are mounted onto the strip by said fixing mechanism toward the front side.

8. (Currently Amended) A bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus that is arranged to output in a frontward direction bags affixed to a strip, said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus comprising:

a bag manufacturing unit that manufactures bags filled with articles, said bag manufacturing unit including

a transverse sealing mechanism that seals a vertical end ends of a bag bags, said transverse sealing mechanism having a pair of sealing members that grasps ~~have a pair of sealing members that are respectively positioned on the front side and rear side of a tubular film, said pair of sealing members revolving so as to define annular trajectories that are front-rear symmetrical, said pair of sealing members grasping the end ends of the bag bags~~ and applies heat and pressure while moving downward to seal the end ends, said pair of sealing members releasing the end of the ~~[[a]]~~ bag at a release position, said release position being fixed within said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus without regard to a distance by which said pair of sealing members moves downward while grasping the bag; and

a mounting unit having

a fixing mechanism that affixes bags that are manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit to a strip at a fixing position, the fixing position being positioned downward and offset in a rearward ~~front-rear~~ direction relative to the release position, ~~and~~

~~a transfer mechanism that transfers the bags from the release position to the fixing position in a diagonally downward and rearward direction such that the bags do not contact said sealing members while being transferred.~~

9. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein

said mounting unit has a holding mechanism that holds bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit; and

said holding mechanism holds bags in a holding position, which is fixed relative to said release position.

10. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein

said fixing position is spaced away from said holding position, and

said mounting unit further has a transfer mechanism that transfers said holding mechanism such that bags held by said holding mechanism are moved from said holding position to said fixing position.

11. (Previously Presented) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein

said holding position and said fixing position are offset in the front-rear direction.

12. (Previously Presented) A bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus, comprising:

a bag manufacturing unit that manufactures bags filled with articles; and

a mounting unit that mounts bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit to a strip, said mounting unit having

a holding mechanism having a main body and a pair of grasping arms for grasping ends of bags that are manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit,

a rail disposed so as to be inclined from a frontward upper side to a rearward lower side,

a sliding member repetitively movable along said rail,

a supporting member fixedly coupled to said sliding member via a rod, said main body of said holding mechanism being fixedly attached to said

supporting member, such that said sliding member, said supporting member, and said holding mechanism repetitively move diagonally together, and  
a fixing mechanism that affixes to the strip bags that are held by said holding mechanism and moved by said sliding member.

13. (Previously Presented) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein

said bag manufacturing unit includes a transverse sealing mechanism that seals vertical ends of bags, said transverse sealing mechanism having a motor and a pair of sealing members that grasps the ends of bags, and

said sliding member is operatively coupled to said motor via a pulley, so as to be mechanically linked to movement of said sealing jaws.

14. (Previously Presented) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising

a control unit that is operatively coupled to said transfer mechanism and said fixing mechanism and is configured to control said transfer mechanism such that the bags do not interfere with said sealing members while being transferred.

15. (Previously Presented) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 8, further comprising

a control unit that is operatively coupled to said transfer mechanism and said fixing mechanism and is configured to control said transfer mechanism such that the bags do not interfere with said sealing members while being transferred.